

day. That is what the resolution I am introducing today would help to bring about. It has three main components:

The first, and main, part, Section 1, would require the House Committee on Rules each Congress to consider submitting to the House a congressional reform resolution. My proposal does not require that they report out and send such a resolution to the floor. It instead says that they should consider submitting such a resolution to the House, and—if they decide against such a resolution—they would have to explain—as part of their end-of-Congress report required in Section 3 below—why they thought congressional reform was not needed.

The biennial reform resolution proposed in Section 1 would draw upon two sources of information, among others:

Section 2 provides for a general floor debate on congressional reform during consideration of the legislative branch appropriations bill. Just as we set aside time for a Humphrey-Hawkins debate on the economy each session during consideration of the budget resolution, so we should set aside time for regular debate on how well Congress is working, allowing the main committee involved in congressional reform to take part in the discussion. The time of the year when we are funding Congress would be an appropriate time to discuss how well Congress is working.

Section 3 requires that the Committee on Rules, as part of its oversight agenda, submit a systematic and comprehensive report at the end of each Congress on the effectiveness of House organization, operations, and procedures. Earlier this year the House required each committee, including Rules, to submit an end-of-Congress report on its overnight activities. My resolution would require that a section of the Rules Committee report specifically take up the need for congressional reform—what was done on reform during that Congress and what might the areas of future reform.

Mr. Speaker, interest in congressional reform tends to ebb and flow according to the changing interests of the main House players in reform, the shifting national agenda, the varying amounts of media coverage given to the operations of Congress, and the changing winds of public interest in major reform. I believe we need to regularize the process so that whoever is in charge of reform in the future will be looking seriously at scheduling and debating a congressional reform resolution each Congress.

My idea is not a new one. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 stated the need for a congressional panel to "make a continuing study of the organization and operation of the Congress." Moreover, the 1974 bipartisan House Select Committee on Committees, headed up by Richard Bolling, stated: "A key aspect of any viable reorganization is provision for continuing evaluation of its effectiveness, and for periodic adjustments in the institution as new situations arise." I believe it is time to finally follow through on these recommendations and regularize the congressional reform process.

A TRIBUTE TO MELVIN AND JOSEPHINE CARLSON

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, on June 9, 1945, Melvin and Josephine Carlson were married in the Holy Name Church in West Roxbury, MA.

That is 50 years, for those of you who may not be mathematically inclined. On the occasion of this monumental anniversary, I must take time out to pay tribute to their lives together.

Melvin and Joey met at Fort Devens Army Base in Ayer, MA. For Melvin, an illustrious military career was in the works. A World War II combat veteran of Guadalcanal and Bougainville fighting, he holds Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantry Badge honors. He is also authorized to wear the Distinguished Unit badge.

Melvin worked for General Electric, and is recently retired from New England Confectionery Co. as director of research and development.

Josephine, a graduate of Regis College in Weston, MA, taught elementary students at St. Dominici's School in Brookline, MA. These days, it is reported that she spends some of her time gardening, reading, and making afghans for her grandchildren.

Speaking of children, Melvin and Josephine have three: Joseph Eric, Richard Melvin, and Elaine Marie, each of who coincidentally went to Boston College. Melvin and Joey have two grandchildren: Heather Ann and Eric Joseph Carlson.

I hear that, in addition to spending as much time as possible with their children and grandchildren, they are very active in their church, and they are loved by many good friends, both old and new.

Fifty years is quite an achievement. I hope my colleagues will join me in wishing Melvin and Josephine Carlson many more memorable years together. Congratulations and happy anniversary.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET—FISCAL YEAR 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 67) setting forth the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for the fiscal years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Congressional Black Caucus substitute budget for fiscal year 1996. The CBC substitute is a caring budget, it shows compassion for the American people and is one that the American people can be proud of. It not only balances the budget, the measure is responsive to the housing, health, education, and employment training needs of the American people.

Unlike the Republicans' budget proposals, House Concurrent Resolution 67, which holds our elderly hostage to their compromised health care condition and economic status, the Congressional Black Caucus substitute treats our elderly with the dignity and respect that they not only deserve—but have earned. Adequate funding is provided for the older Americans' programs, including essential nutrition programs, low-income home-energy assistance, and assisted housing. Medicare is preserved.

The lives of more 2,000,000 Medicare seniors in Texas would be dramatically impacted, and by the year 2002 each Medicare senior in Texas would be asked to pay an additional \$1,112 out-of-pocket expenses. Each would be forced to pay \$4,000 more for fiscal years 1996 through 2002 to make up for the cuts. We want the future to be free but not on the backs of seniors and those most vulnerable. Unlike the Republicans' budget proposal which forces our elderly to choose between food and heat, under the CBC alternative their quality of life is enhanced.

The CBC substitute is also kind to our Nation's children, including those yet to be born. It provides adequate funding for Healthy Start, Child Care, and Head Start. Our children are our future. They have placed their future in our hands, we cannot sacrifice the trust.

In addition, the CBC substitute budget strengthens support for higher education, student aid, TRIO, education for the disadvantaged, school reform, biomedical research, and community infrastructure. The CBC has heard the voice of the American people, and responded with a sound budget that is fair, responsible, and overturns the Republicans' assault on our Nation's most vulnerable citizens—the children, the elderly, the Veterans, and hard-working families.

The Congressional Black Caucus substitute budget stands on its own merits. We know we must maintain a strong national defense—but we also know we must establish our fiscal policy and priorities in a responsible and compassionate manner.

THE AVERAGE AMERICAN HAS REASON TO BE ANGRY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

(From the Christian Science Monitor, June 1, 1995)

THE AVERAGE AMERICAN HAS REASON TO BE ANGRY—LOW PAY, LONG HOURS, AND A WIDENING GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

(By Bernard Sanders)

It has recently been widely reported that the average American is angry. Well, the average American should be angry.

Since 1973, the working people of this country have worked longer hours, earned less, and lost much of the economic security they previously had. During the last 22 years, 80 percent of American families have experienced falling or stagnant real incomes. Meanwhile, average Americans are experiencing a major drop in their standard of living, while the rich and powerful have never had it so good.